

What is claimed is:

1. A method of outputting a database search information in a database system for retrieving records using a search key and retrieving records from a plurality of databases in a chain-reactive manner, the method comprising:

a step of outputting, in the case that a record retrieved from a database on a chain-reactive search path does not contain a search key to be entered into a database that is subsequently searched, information for identifying a first record that does not contain the search key and information for identifying a database having the first record.

2. The method of outputting a database search information according to claim 1, in the case that the first record that does not contain a search key to be entered into a subsequent database is present among records retrieved from any intervening database other than the first database and a pre-designated terminal database, the method comprising: a step of outputting information for identifying the first record and information for identifying a database having the first record; and

a step of outputting the contents of the first record at the same time of the said outputting or in accordance with a specific operation.

3. The method of outputting a database search information according to claim 1, wherein in the step of retrieving search keys and records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of retrieval processes in accordance with the search path is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes.

4. The method of outputting a database search information according to claim 2, wherein in the step of retrieving search keys and records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of extraction processes in accordance with the search path is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes.

5. A program for causing a computer to carry out a method of outputting a database search information in a database system for retrieving records using a search key and retrieving records from a plurality of databases in a chain-reactive manner, comprising:

a step of outputting, in the case that a record retrieved from a database on a chain-reactive search path does not contain a search key to be entered into a database that is subsequently searched, information for identifying a first record that does not contain the search key and information for identifying a database having the first record.

6. The program according to claim 5, in the case that the first record that does not contain a search key to be entered into a subsequent database is present among records retrieved from any intervening database other than the first database and a pre-designated terminal database, the method comprising:

a step of outputting information for identifying the first record and information for identifying a database having the first record; and

a step of outputting the contents of the first record at the same time of the said outputting or in accordance with a specific operation.

7. The program according to claim 5, wherein in the step of retrieving search keys and records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of retrieval processes in accordance with the search path is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes.

8. The program according to claim 6, wherein in the step of retrieving search keys and records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of retrieval processes in accordance with the search path is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes.